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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## US 'would not be surprised' by N. Korea launch

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House said yesterday it "would not be surprised" if North Korea carries out another missile test, after reports that Pyongyang had moved two mid-range rockets to its eastern coast.

"We've obviously seen the reports that North Korea may be making preparations to launch a missile, and we're monitoring this situation closely," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

"We would not be surprised to see them take such an action. We have seen them launch missiles in the past... And it would fit their current pattern of bellicose, unhelpful and unconstructive rhetoric and actions," he said.

"We urge them to stop with the provocations and to focus instead on meeting their international obligations and feeding their own people. They are only making themselves more and more isolated from the rest of the world."

The Pentagon declined to confirm reports about the missiles from South Korea's Yonhap news agency, but

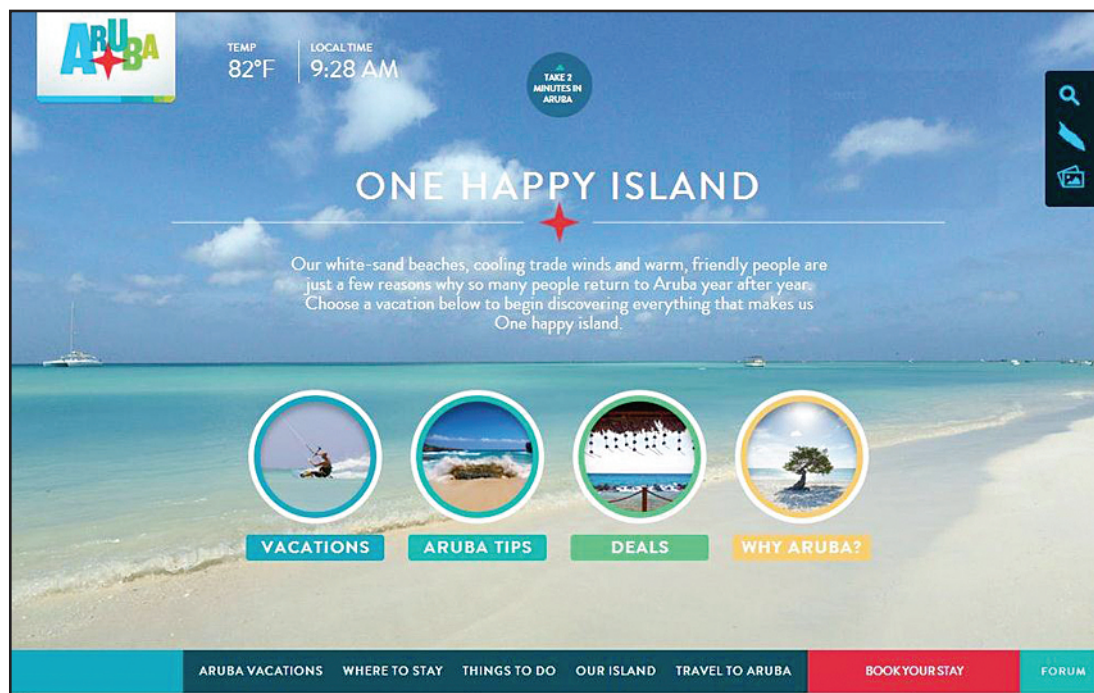
warned North Korea that "further provocative action would be regrettable."

The Pentagon has said it will send missile-interceptor batteries to protect its bases on Guam, a US territory some 3,380 kilometers southeast of North Korea and home to 6,000 American military personnel.



**SAUDI ARABIA, Riyadh :** A Saudi girl is seen driving an ATV (all-terrain vehicle) with a younger sister at Thumamah Park near Riyadh3. Saudi Arabia's religious police have lifted a ban on women riding bicycles and motorbikes, but only in recreational areas and while dressed in full Islamic veil and accompanied by a male relative, local media reported. (AFP PHOTO)

## Aruba Tourism Authority launches new website look



THE ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY (ATA) is proud to announce the launching of their redesigned website. With lovely colorful pictures, the website reveals more than just beautiful beaches.

Visitors of the site will enjoy the diversification that our destination offers, our luxurious accommodations and the attributes that make us so authentic. The website con-

tains valuable information for everyone interested in the different stages of planning a vacation, from searching for information to choosing a destination, planning and booking a vacation.

The website is a powerful tool for attracting visitors. Aruba's website is one of the most visited in the Caribbean region. Via the website it is also easy to see why visitors continue to come back to Aruba. Hence, the website serves to demonstrate Aruba's unique position as a destination.

### Different sections of aruba.com

For the visitor who wants to live the experience before arriving on Aruba, this is also possible by means of a two-minute video available on every page.

There is a link to the "Aruba Certified Program" with an explanation of the "Nos Compromiso" program, which shows why Aruba is so special to us and to our visitors.

Much attention was given to the redesigning of the website, not only the visible aspect (the front end), but especially the technology and facilities

behind it (the back end).

The website affords the ATA the possibility for, among others, see how many visitors are visiting the site and how many are really being convinced to reserve a vacation to Aruba. The focus is also on the simplicity and mobility of the site, which was an integral part of the planning of the site.

This means that the site was so designed to make navigation on a tablet or mobile unit just as easy as on a computer screen. Users of the site can easily share information with friends and family via social media. Hence, the redesign is effective and easy for all users.

Aruba.com receives an average of 285.000 unique visitors per month, which is extremely significant when compared to other islands in the Caribbean. Aruba.com's association with other sites such as "trip advisor" which visitors can read the references of previous visitors gives the site much weight and credibility.

This is why it is so important for aruba.com to always keep their site updated with the ultimate in information and technology, so as to be able to stand out and continue to attract visitors.



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## Garnier Aruba announces their 3rd annual Beach Clean Up

Mediocosmetics Aruba N.V., official agents for Garnier products on Aruba, and Focus Magazine, a local monthly social and news publication, are collaborating for the third consecutive year for the Garnier Beach Clean Up, scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

Mediocosmetics Sales and Marketing Manager Lisayra Tromp-Polak was joined by Focus Publisher Aurora Dijkhoff in announcing the upcoming event, and encouraging volunteers to join in the effort to clear the 4km stretch of Grapefield Beach, on the eastern tip of the island. This beach has been officially "adopted" by the Garnier project as their target area.



**George Winterdal, Edith van der Wal, Lisayra Pollock, Aurora Dijkhoff, Michael Naar**

ulation. Aside from the green turtles that inhabit the surrounding waters, Aruba is an important breeding ground for Leatherbacks and other species that travel thousands

dation to monitor the turtle nests to insure hatchlings make it to the sea safely. It has also provided funding for an important study of the impact of Aruba's conditions on world turtle populations. It appears Aruba is a very important nesting ground, where the cooler sands encourage more male turtles to develop during incubation. Global warming is creating a situation in other places where the majority of turtles being produced in a nest are female; the results from turtles nesting in Aruba is helping to balance this out.

She also stated that Grapefield Beach is a very important area for Aruba's Green Turtles, one of the favored areas for laying their eggs, and the clean up is very important in preserving the population. Refuse, particularly plastics, are often mistaken for jellyfish, a favorite food of most turtles, and can result on them choking on any garbage they might try to eat. For the second year, Mrs. Tromp-Polak was proud to turn over a check to TortugAruba, for them to continue their important work of preserving Aruba's wildlife.

of miles from the North Atlantic to mate and nest in the same waters where they originally hatched.

Aside from the clean-up, Mediocosmetics conducts a year-long campaign where .25 Aruban cents is set aside for the sale of every Garnier product, to be donated to TortugAruba. Mrs. van der Wal stated that Garnier sponsorship has enabled the foun-



**Edith van der Wal receives a check from Lisayra Polak for TortugAruba**

"The Garnier slogan of "Take Care," applies not only to their line of natural hair products," explained Mrs. Tromp-Polak, "but also to the environment."

Also on hand for the announcement of the upcoming clean up was Edith van der Wal, founder of TortugAruba, a foundation that monitors and helps preserve Aruba's native and visiting turtle pop-

*Affected passenger flow at the airport:*

## Challenging passenger processes for flights departing to the US

*Sequestration also affects Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix*

ORANJESTAD: Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is currently dealing with an external situation that is possibly affecting the passenger flow departing to the US, as is the case in the US also. In the US travelers had been warned ever since the beginning of March 2013 about long lines and passenger processes at the US airports as a possible effect of the US Budget sequestration.

Budget sequestration is a procedure in United States law that limits the size of the federal budget. Sequestration involves setting a hard cap on the amount of government spending within broadly-defined categories. For Aruba this means that as of March 1, 2013 the US Customs and Border Protection who operates and manages the US Pre-Clearance facility at the Aruba airport, has also been feeling the ef-

fects of these caps on the amount of government spending which may have its effect on their manpower planning.

The Aruba Airport Authority N.V. and all other local and US authorities and companies involved in the unbound passenger process such as IASA, Local Customs, airlines and ground handlers are continuously working together to try to counteract the situation at hand, but the effects are nonetheless visible during peak hours at the airport, especially from Fridays to Sundays when departing in the afternoon.

AAA advises passengers departing to the US to be at the airport at least 4 hours prior to the scheduled departure time of their flight at the airport, in order to ensure a timely boarding process.

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*Continued on page 3*





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## Digicel y Traimerdia celebrates successful reading program

As a good corporate citizen, Digicel offers support to different organizations in our community. One of the projects with a major impact was launched in connection with Digicel's program "Ta Extraordinario," for which they formed a partnership with Traimerdia. Traimerdia is an after school program to help school children with their home work and a safe place to be after school for those whose parents are at work when they get out of school.

In October 2012, Digicel began a one year project together with Traimerdia, which is completely dedicated to extraordinary children of Aruba. The project, which was begun in San Nicolas, focuses completely on the improvement of the ability to read and to promote the pleasure and importance of reading among children.

Digicel is very pleased with the program. The results are



fantastic from those children in the program....their reading has progressed greatly. The successful program is now being expanded from barrio to barrio. Digicel is grateful to the Traimerdia Center for affording them the opportunity to make this contribution to education on Aruba, according to Digicel's Marketing Executive, Elaine Singh.

The 10 week interactive

program, supported with reading material, coloring books and much more, deals with topics relevant to children with which they can readily relate. Topics such as the sea, recycling, space, etc., are among those used.

Eight weeks ago the program was introduced to the Paradera Traimerdia with the theme "Nos Bestianan di tera di Aruba." Every phase of the

project terminates with a special event for all the children of the respected center. Just recently, Traimerdia Paradera closed out their program with presentations of rhymes, singing and poems made by the children all based on the reading material they received. Paradera Traimerdia had the participation of 100 children in their program.

With the reading program,

the children at the Paradera Traimerdia explored nature from their books, expanded their vocabulary with words used to describe animals present in our nature. They can now better describe what they see around them, according to Elaine Singh.

The program entails reading for at least 30 minutes, followed by other activities and creative games, as well as handcraft related to their reading. According to leader of the Center, Lourdes Vries, the children truly enjoy the activities and are keenly interested in the reading.

The program contributes to the overall reading skills of our children while it also strengthens their knowledge of the Dutch, Papiamentu and English languages.

Through this program, Digicel puts life into their "Ta Extraordinario" program giving attention to our children's development in becoming extraordinary people for the future.



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## 3rd annual Beach Clean Up

*Continued from page 2*

This year, ZoomAruba and GLW Foundation, which conducts the Miss Aruba Pageant, are again happy to be on the Garnier Clean Up Team, providing media coverage and volunteers for the event. Everyone is welcome to volunteer; organizers extend a special invitation to scouting and church groups, service clubs and schools, and businesses that wish to put together a team. To do the best job, they require at least 400 volunteers, allowing for one person per ten meters of beach that needs cleaning.

For more information or to inscribe to participate, call Mrs. Tromp-Polak at telephone 592-0121 or e-mail: lizayrapolak@curapharm.com

Rosalie Klein



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## Aura Casino: "Where players win"



Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand is the place to play right now! The cash prizes are flowing out and happy players are leaving with big smiles on their faces.



Recently, **Mrs. Cynthia Harrington** became one of those happy winners. Mrs. Harrington found her lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win."

She won the beautiful amount of \$4000,- while playing on the brand new slot machine "Double Bouble Bonus Poker."

Another happy winner was **Mr. Scott Wein** who won a

total amount of \$1100,99- at the Aura Casino while playing on the brand new slot machine "Black Gold Wild."

**Mrs. Erica Fletcher** also decided to join the winners. Mrs. Aument won a total amount of \$2058,25 playing the slot machine "Blazing Doubles."

And the winning just continues at the Aura Casino as **Mrs. Jo Ann Dippel** also found her lucky streak in the Casino "where players win".

Mrs. Dippel won the total amount of \$4,803,60 at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot machine "Quick Hits."

**Mr. Colirie Vuberto** was also another happy winner after walking away with the nice sum of \$1,000, won on the slot machine "Double Bouble Bonus Poker."

Not wanting to be left out of the winners circle at the Aura Casino **Mrs. Lisa Faria** also walked away with winnings summing up to \$1002,- won on the slot machine "Game Maker."

Staff & Management want to congratulate all the lucky winners and invite everyone to come and win at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand: "Where players win."

The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach.

Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners!

## Big group of loyal visitors honored by ATA at the Divi Phoenix



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a group of friendly, loyal visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The honorees were Mr. Scott and Mrs. Mae Criado and their daughters Marcia and Mary from Norwood Mass., Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy Bane from also from Norwood Mass. and Mr. Freddie and Mrs. Glenda Cannon. They were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. Mr. Arnold and Mrs. Barbara Ackerman, Mr. Tony and Mrs. Jackie Mula from Somerset Mass. and Mr. Edward and Mrs. Helen Rossi were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Avril and Mr. Gerrit Griffith, GM at the Divi Phoenix.



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## UN rights chief slams failure to shut Guantanamo

GENEVA (AFP) - Washington is breaking international law by holding detainees indefinitely at Guantanamo and must honour a pledge to shut the controversial jail, the UN's human rights chief said yesterday.

"I am deeply disappointed that the US government has not been able to close Guantanamo Bay, despite repeatedly committing itself to do so," Navi Pillay said in a statement.

"The continuing indefinite incarceration of many of the detainees amounts to arbitrary detention and is in clear breach of international law," she said.

"It severely undermines the United States' stance that it is an upholder of human rights... When other countries breach these standards, the US -- quite rightly -- strongly criticises them for it."

The jail, in a US Navy base in Cuba, was opened in 2002 to hold prisoners taken in the "War on Terror" waged by President George W. Bush after the 9/11 attacks. His successor Barack Obama moved to close it in 2009, but plans to try suspects in US civilian courts were stymied by Congress, leaving many inmates in limbo.

"It is time to bring an end to this situation," said Pillay.

Dozens of detainees are staging a hunger strike which started in February amid claims -- denied by US officials -- that guards mishandled Korans during searches.

Its scale is disputed, with US officials putting the strikers at 37, while rights lawyers acting for detainees say a majority of the estimated 130 prisoners at Guantanamo's Camp 6 wing are involved.

Pillay said that half of the 166 remaining detainees at Guantanamo were declared to be "cleared for transfer" to their home countries or third countries, yet they remain imprisoned.

Others reportedly have been "designated for further indefinite detention," with some of them languishing in the facility for more than a decade, she said.

"No one is suggesting that the US should be 'soft' on people who have planned or carried out crimes or atrocities. Indeed, international law requires that there must not be impunity for such crimes," Pillay insisted.

But human rights apply to all, including those suspected of the most serious crimes, she underlined.

## Iran, world powers fail to make progress in nuclear talks

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AFP) - Iran and world powers yesterday failed to reach a breakthrough in the Iranian nuclear crisis during talks that saw Tehran being criticised for failing to give a clear response to a proposal aimed at breaking the deadlock.

The powers are seeking answers about a nuclear program that Iran insists is peaceful but world powers fear may hide some military dimensions.

The onus is now on Iran to accept a series of demands that include curbing enrichment activities in exchange for conces-

sions which would ease UN sanctions that have choked the Iranian economy and seen its currency's value plummet.

Iran said its chief negotiator Saeed Jalili opened the negotiations in the Kazakh city of Almaty with goodwill by presenting a three-point outline of its own vision for how the dispute may be resolved.

"At this morning's meeting, his excellency Dr. Jalili presented specific plans and proposals for starting a new round of cooperation between Iran" and the world powers, his deputy Ali Bagheri told re-

porters after the first plenary session wound down after three hours.

But Western officials said the plan was just a rehash of old ideas that had already been cast aside at a meeting last year in Moscow.

"There has not yet been a clear and concrete response to the E3+3 Almaty I proposal" that the powers made at the last nuclear negotiations at the same venue in February, a Western official said in a statement to AFP also backed by a second source.

"Their presentation was

pretty much a repetition of what they put forward in Moscow. There were some not fully explained general comments on our ideas," said the official on condition of anonymity. The day's second plenary session ended after nearly three hours with the two sides at least agreeing to meet for another plenary session today.

Failure to strike a compromise could prove costly to both sides. A possible war would likely see a global spike in oil prices and draw in other regional powers at an already unstable time in the Middle East.



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## Women's rights 'unfinished business'

NEW YORK (AFP) - Hillary Clinton, the former US secretary of state and possible candidate to become America's first female president, yesterday called women's rights the "unfinished business of the 21st century."

Clinton, whose current spree of public appearances is feeding speculation about a potential 2016 White House run, got standing ovation after ovation from the mostly female audience at the Women in the World conference in New York.

But the wife of former president Bill Clinton gave no hints about her own ambitions, instead devoting her speech to what she called "the great unfinished business of the 21st century: the advancing of rights of women and girls."

"Too many women are treated, at best, as second class citizens; at worst as some kind of subhuman species," she said.

Clinton cited local outrage

over the shooting of a Pakistani teenage girl by the Taliban and the gang rape of an Indian woman as evidence of a potential sea change in which social media tools have greatly empowered activists.

"We are meeting at a remarkable moment of confluence," she said.

"There is a powerful new current of grassroots activism stirring, galvanized by events too outrageous to ignore and enabled by new technology that give women and girls voices like never before."

"We need to seize this moment," she said.

Clinton said the need to expand women's education, healthcare access and employment opportunities wasn't just "a nice thing to do," but an integral part of building more stable, prosperous societies in troubled, male-dominated parts of the world like Pakistan.

"Laws and traditions that hold back women, hold back entire societies," she said.

However, Clinton also turned her sights on her own country, noting that women's life expectancy has shrunk in the United States, as has participation by girls in school science.

"On average, women live shorter lives in America than any other major industrialized country."

"Think about that: we are the richest, most powerful country in the world, but many women in America are living shorter lives than their mothers," she said. "The clock is turning back."

Concerning the possibility that she might try to break the ultimate glass ceiling when President Barack Obama finishes his second term, Clinton did not even drop a clue.

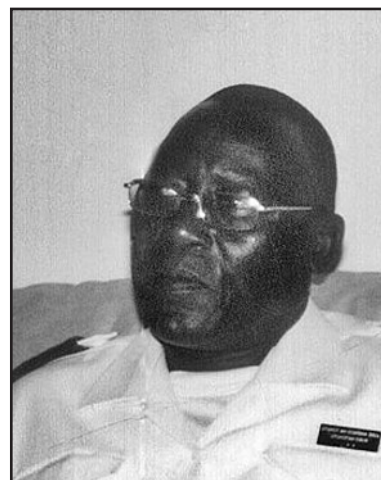
"I look forward to being your partner in all the days and years ahead," was all she told the rapt crowd in the packed 2,586-seat David H. Koch Theater in Manhattan's Lincoln Center.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### US agents snatch African drugs kingpin in high seas sting

BISSAU (AFP) - US agents have captured the former head of Guinea-Bissau's navy, an alleged kingpin in the nation's drugs trade with Latin America, in a sting operation on the high seas, intelligence sources and media said.

Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto was transferred to the United States after being snatched in international waters near Cape Verde in an operation by US and Cape Verdian agents, state TV in the Atlantic island state reported.



Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto

The Cape Verde islands lie about 1,000 kilometres (660 miles) west of Guinea-Bissau.

Bubo Na Tchuto has since 2010 been on a list of suspected drug barons drawn up by the United States, which has also imposed a US travel ban and asset freeze on him.

He is one of several military figures in notoriously unstable

Guinea-Bissau alleged to be involved in helping Latin American drug cartels smuggle cocaine into Europe via Africa.

The government in Bissau said it was aware of the arrest and vowed to take the necessary steps to ensure Bubo Na Tchuto was properly defended in the US.

### 45 dead in India building collapse

MUMBAI (AFP) - At least 45 people were crushed to death on the outskirts of Mumbai when an unauthorised partly-built apartment block collapsed, officials said yesterday, highlighting the dangers of India's illegal housing boom. The seven-storey building collapsed on Thursday evening into a mangled heap of steel and concrete about eight meters (26 feet) high that rescuers and local residents struggled to cut through, officials said. Rescue efforts continued yesterday, with diggers and steel cutters employed to reach victims who were carried away on makeshift stretchers. Limbs protruding from the wreckage were a grisly sight in some areas. As emergency workers combed the rubble for survivors in front of a huge crowd of onlookers, two toddlers were pulled out alive late Thursday to cries of "Allahu akbar" (God is greater) and cheers and clapping, an AFP photographer at the scene said. "The latest toll is 45 dead and 69 injured," said a spokesman for the local municipal administration. Indian media reports put the toll at 49.



PORT-AU-PRINCE: AFP photo shows a Haitian man searching for recyclables to sell on April 5, 2013 at a garbage dump south of Port-au-Prince. The Haitian Human Rights Organizations (POHDH) believes that the degrading environmental situation of Haiti threatens the survival of the population and calls for an awareness of all citizens and the commitment of the government in resolving the problem.



## International News

# N. Korea warns it cannot protect embassies after April 10

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea on Friday warned foreign embassies in Pyongyang that it was unable to guarantee their safety after April 10 and they should consider evacuating their missions amid soaring nuclear tensions.

European countries with embassies in Pyongyang, such as Britain and Russia, reported receiving a warning advisory, as an increasingly bellicose North Korea moved two mid-range missiles to its east coast.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow, which has relatively close ties with Pyongyang, was consulting with China over the warning, as well as the United States and other members of the stalled six-party talks on North Korea.

There were "many factors" that needed clarification, Lavrov said.

North Korea, incensed by UN sanctions and South Korea-US military drills, has issued a series of apocalyptic threats of nuclear war in recent weeks, and there has been growing international concern that the situation might spiral out of control.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon described the daily threats from Pyongyang as "really alarming and troubling" and Germany summoned the North Korean ambassador to convey Berlin's "serious concern".

The spike in tensions came as Yonhap news agency, citing a top South Korean government official, said North Korea had loaded two mid-range Musudan missiles on mobile launchers and hidden them in underground facilities near its east coast.

"The North is apparently intent on firing the missiles without prior warning," the official said.

The Musudan has never been tested, but is believed to have a range of around 3,000 kilometres (1,860 miles), which could theoretically be pushed to 4,000 with a light payload.

That would cover any target in South Korea and Japan, and possibly even reach US military bases located on the Pacific island of Guam.



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## Dutch court halts Qaeda suspects extradition to US

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch court on Friday halted the extradition of a Dutch-Pakistani Al-Qaeda suspect to the United States, saying he would not be handed over until Washington guaranteed the same treatment for his post-traumatic stress disorder as in the Netherlands.

Khan, 26, is wanted by the US for allegedly planning acts including a suicide bombing at

a US military base in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province.

He faces five terror-related charges before a New York court, but details have never been made public and it is unclear if the suicide attack ever took place.

Justice Minister Ivo Opstelten in December gave his final approval for Khan's extradition,

but said Khan could only be transferred if he would get similar treatment for PTSD, which his lawyers said he suffered as a result of torture in a Pakistani jail.

Khan, who allegedly also suffers from depression, received so-called eye movement desensitisation treatment (EMDR) in the Netherlands, which is not used in US pris-

ons, according to the court document.

The treatment is controversial and US authorities said in a letter "EMDR is not universally used or accepted. It is not a treatment used by the Bureau of Prisons."

Dutch justice officials said Friday they would study the ruling before deciding whether to lodge an appeal.



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situa na Piedra Plat di 10am pa 7pm

Sigi nos riba  /Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Group

## Health gap in Europe wider than ever



PARIS (AFP) - Life expectancy in Russia has marked time since the collapse of the Soviet Union but risen in its former eastern-bloc allies, The Lancet reported.

Alcohol, tobacco and road accidents head a list of problems that lie behind premature death in the former Communist eastern Europe but remain chronic in many of the ex-Soviet republics, it said.

In Russia, male life expectancy at birth was 63 years in 1990, but fell to 58 in 2000 before rising to 62 in 2009. For women, it was 74 years in 1990, 72 in 2000 and 74 in 2009.

By comparison, expected lifespan for both sexes in the European Union (EU) rose smoothly by around six years from 1990 to 2009, to almost 80 years.

The EU figures factor in former Soviet bloc countries of eastern and central Europe which joined the EU in 2004.

"The situation changed when the Communist bloc collapsed," according to a paper published by The Lancet.

"Life expectancy improved almost at once in Poland, the former East Germany and what was then Czechoslovakia, but the improvement was delayed until 1993 in Hungary and a few years later in Romania and

Bulgaria."

But in Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, life expectancy fell after the fall of the Soviet Union, driven in part by a sharp decline in health systems.

In eight other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) -- the rump organisation gathering old Soviet states -- it edged upwards.

Male life expectancy at birth in the CIS is now around 12 years behind that for the EU, and for women, it is eight years, The Lancet reported.

"On the basis of 2010 mortality rates, a 20-year-old man in Russia has only a 63-percent chance of reaching 60 years, whereas a similar man in western Europe has a 90 percent chance," said one paper in a series published by the journal on health disparities in Europe.



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## Health & Living

### Pope calls for determined action against sex abuse

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis on Friday urged Vatican disciplinarians to act "with determination" against sexual abuse committed by members of the Catholic clergy, in his first public pronouncement on the issue.

"The Holy Father in particular asked that the congregation ... act with determination in cases of sexual abuse," the Vatican said in a statement, referring to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which handles such cases, after the pope met with its director.

The statement noted that the policy followed "the line established" by Francis' predecessor Benedict XVI.

The Argentine pope, elected last month, asked for "stepped-up measures to protect minors and help those who were subjected to such violence in the past".

Also in line with his predecessor, Francis asked for a continuation of "procedures against the guilty and the commitment of bishops' conferences (national churches) to formulate and implement the necessary directives in this area."

The scourge of abusive priests burst into the spotlight more than a decade ago with a cascade of scandals rocking the Church worldwide, from Ireland to the United States, from Australia to Benedict's native Germany.

The Vatican says it continues to receive around 600 claims against abusive priests every year, many of them dating back to the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

Sexual abuse by priests has often been coupled with cover-ups by their superiors, typically by transferring them to other parishes.



SAN ANSELMO, CA (AFP) : A package of Plan B contraceptive is displayed at Jack's Pharmacy on April 5, 2013 in San Anselmo, California. A federal judge in New York City has ordered the Food and Drug Administration to make Plan B contraceptive, also known as the morning after pill, available to younger teens without a perscription within 30 days. The judges ruling overturns a December 2011 decision by the FDA to restrict access to the contraceptive to any girl under 17 years of age.





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## Sci-Tech

### Scientists use 3D printer to make tissue-like material

WASHINGTON (AFP) - British scientists have used a custom-made 3D printer to make living tissue-like material that could one day serve medical purposes, according to findings released Thursday.

The material is made up of thousands of connected water droplets, encapsulated within lipid films, that can carry out some of the functions of human cells.

These "droplet networks" could be the building blocks of a new technology used to pass on drugs and, down the road, could even replace damaged tissue, said a statement from Oxford University, where the scientists are based. Their findings were published in Friday's issue of the US journal Science.

Since the so-called droplet networks are completely synthetic, don't have a genome and don't replicate, they lack the problems linked with other methods of creating artificial tissues -- such as those using stem cells.

According to fellow Oxford scientist Gabriel Villar, "the printed structures could in principle employ much of the biological machinery that enables the sophisticated behavior of living cells and tissues."

This synthetic material can be designed to take on different shapes once printed.

In this way, a flat shape can be programmed to fold itself into a "hollow ball," the statement said.

As for the 3D printer used, it was custom built at Oxford.



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## H7N9 bird flu strain has worrying traits: experts



PARIS (AFP) - A mutated bird flu virus that has killed six people in China displays worrying traits that warrant high vigilance, experts say, though the true extent of the threat is unclear.

Most concerning is the virus' wide geographical spread, and the fact that it seems to be spreading unseen among its host animals, possibly chickens or ducks.

Having made its jump from animals to humans, which re-

quired a series of genetic mutations, the influenza A(H7N9) strain has now been diagnosed in four Chinese provinces: Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and the business capital Shanghai.

Of 14 people confirmed infected, six have died since February. Patients suffer from severe pneumonia with a fever, cough and shortness of breath.

The better-known H5N1 bird flu, which has infected 622 people since 2003 of whom 371 died, is highly fatal

in birds, making it easier to identify than the new strain.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the animal source of the new infection and its mode of transmission was not yet clear.

No cases of human-to-human transmission have yet been found, and no infections beyond China.

"Any influenza that jumps from an animal species to a human has pandemic potential," Alan Hampson, chairman of the Australian Influenza Specialist Group, said in a statement issued by the Science Media Centre.

"If it learns to spread in humans, if it actually acquires that ability, then it's a high likelihood that it will become pandemic."

Chinese authorities are monitoring about 400 people who had been in contact with those taken ill, but have found no one with symptoms.

Since humans had not been exposed to this particular strain of flu until now, we have no immunity and would be highly susceptible.

There is no preventive vaccine.

Preliminary tests have shown the virus would react to existing antiviral drugs like Tamiflu, according to the WHO.

The UN agency has advised against airport screening and any Chinese travel or trade restrictions for now, recommending good hygiene as the best

course of action -- regular and thorough hand washing, avoiding diseased animals and properly cooking all meat.

It has started work on developing a vaccine, which must be strain specific, but observers fear it would be too late to deal with a potential H7N9 outbreak.

It is common for flu viruses to mutate, but only once in about five years do they cross the species barrier, and rarely with grave effects for humans.

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## Obama to offer entitlement cuts in budget: official

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama will make key concessions to Republican foes next week when he unveils his US budget that proposes cuts to cherished entitlement programs, the White House said Friday.

Obama's fiscal blueprint slashes the deficit by \$1.8 trillion over 10 years, in what a senior administration official described as a "compromise offer" that cuts federal spending, finds savings in Social Security, and raises tax revenue from the wealthy.

Republicans led by House Speaker John Boehner are widely opposed to any new tax hikes, after the president secured \$600 billion in increased tax revenue in a year-end deal.

But Obama's concession to conservatives in the form of reduced cost-of-living payouts for Social Security benefits could revive consideration of a deficit-reducing "grand bargain" that has proved elusive in recent years.

Such cuts to public pension programs and public health insurance for the elderly -- seen as sacred cows for Obama's Democrats -- have been long-standing demands of Republicans.

"While this is not the presi-

dent's ideal deficit reduction plan, and there are particular proposals in this plan like the CPI (consumer price index) change that were key Republican requests and not the president's preferred approach, this is a compromise proposal built on common ground," the administration official said.

The president is willing to "do tough things to reduce the deficit," but only in the context of a package that includes new revenues from the wealthy, the official added.

"This isn't about political horse trading; it's about reducing the deficit in a balanced way that economists say is best for the economy and job creation."

Obama's new revenues will draw in part from capping retirement savings plans for millionaires, and closing some loopholes that benefit the rich.

The annual budget deficit is projected at 5.5 percent of gross domestic product for the fiscal year ending in September. Under the Obama budget, that would decline to 1.7 percent of GDP by 2023.

Combined with the \$2.5 trillion in savings already achieved since negotiations in 2010, the Obama budget would bring total deficit reduction to \$4.3 trillion over 10 years, slightly higher than the overall goal agreed to by both parties for stabilizing the national debt.

Boehner offered a lukewarm reaction to the plan.

"One of the best things President Obama can do is follow the House and outline a balanced budget next week -- one that includes entitlement reforms that are not conditional on enactment of more tax increases, which will suppress growth instead of encourage it," Boehner said in a statement.

## Finance

### EU poses risk to US, global economies: US official

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Europe continues to present barriers to growth in the US and global economies, a top US Treasury official said Friday, citing the Cyprus crisis.

"The risk of financial instability in Europe remains a risk to our recovery and the global economic outlook," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew's visit to the European Union next week.

"Recent events in Cyprus remind us that Europe continues to navigate a challenging path of fiscal and financial reform," the official said.

The official noted the situation in struggling Cyprus, which struck a 10-billion-euro (\$13 billion) bailout deal this week with the EU, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund.

The senior US official underscored that many banks in Europe were large relative to the size of their home markets, and called on authorities to make further progress toward a common eurozone institutional framework.

Such a banking framework, used for recapitalization, restructuring, resolution and deposit insurance, would create a "common backstop" to contain contagion risks.

Lew, in his visit to Europe Monday and Tuesday for talks with counterparts on the global and European economies, will notably meet with ECB President Mario Draghi.

## Dismal US jobs report, Iran talks weigh on oil

NEW YORK (AFP) - Global oil prices fell further on Friday after a dismal US jobs report renewed concerns about the strength of the world's biggest economy and traders kept an eye on Iran nuclear talks.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for May, closed at \$92.70 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, down 56 cents from Thursday.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in May dived \$2.22 to settle at \$104.12 a barrel on London's Intercontinental Exchange (ICE).

The highly anticipated jobs market report fell far short of market expectations.

The Labor Department said the United States added just 88,000 jobs in March. The unemployment rate dipped to 7.6 percent from 7.7 percent in February, but only because people dropped out of the workforce.

"Clearly the market was disappointed" in the weak job cre-

ation and the shrinking labor pool, said Andy Lipow, an independent analyst.

Also in focus were talks under way between Iran and six world powers in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Iran and the so-called P5+1 -- the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany -- failed Friday to reach a breakthrough in the dispute over Iran's contested nuclear program.

Iran insists it is for peaceful purposes but the P5+1, which also includes Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, suspect it masks a nuclear weapons program. The talks were set to resume Saturday.

The talks also put pressure on oil prices because there was "a little bit of a less geopolitical risk premium," said Bart Melek of TD Securities.

James Williams of WTRG Economics noted that WTI had fallen 4.2 percent and Brent was down 4.1 percent over the prior two days.

## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

I	C	B	M		M	L	B		A	S	P
S	O	L	E		F	O	U	R		L	O
M	A	A	M		I	N	C	A		A	S
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S	E	C	R	E	T	E		C	A	P	O
A	G	O		R	A	M	B	O		P	E
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M	A	T		L	I	S	P		T	R	I
D	U	O		E	R	O	S		O	L	E
S	I	P		R	O	B			N	O	D



**NICOSIA (AFP) - A combo made on April 05, 2013 of recent pictures shows doors of shops that closed down in Nicosia due to the economic crisis in Cyprus. An exit from the eurozone may look tempting for Cyprus in the throes of economic collapse but it poses a high-risk option for an island economy heavily reliant on imports, analysts say.**





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# Have your bikini your way at Banana Moon



A store that finally understands the uniqueness of every woman's body has recently opened its doors on the Havenstraat in Oranjestad, just behind the Royal Plaza Mall.

Banana Moon is a well-known brand of swim and beach wear, manufactured in Monaco, so quality is insured. Their unique claim to fame is that bikinis and tankinis are sold as separates, so stylish

women can mix and match to produce the combination of their choice, as well as being assured a perfect fit, both top and bottom. Prices are very reasonable for designer swimwear.

Owner Selma was inspired to seek out a brand that answered her own frustrations at finding a proper fitting two piece swimsuit, and discovered the stylish and well-made product. The shop is quiet

new, and they report they are expecting a shipment of the most recent collection at any moment.

Presently, however, their walls are lined with an adorable selection, in a rainbow of colors to suit any taste. Shelly from Ohio, reports she had been all over the island looking for just



**A nice selection of beach covers**

"Arubiana" sandals, which have a diverse selection that will produce at least one pair to perfectly color coordinate to your swim selection. Banana Moon also produces very attractive lines of beach tunics and wraparounds. Smart beach bags and adorable hats will complete the ensemble, for a perfectly fitting fashion statement on Aruba's fine white sands.

**Banana Moon is open daily, Monday through Saturday, nonstop from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM.** Visit them for that dream bikini that fits perfectly in all places!

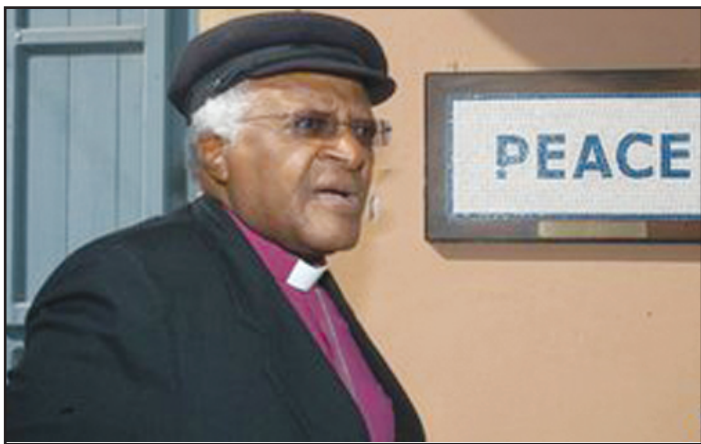


**A complete selection of Arubianas sandals**

such a store, and walked out with a big smile and two new bikinis. She has the good fortune to have a fantastic figure, but the misfortune of always finding bikini tops never quite fit when the bottom was just right. This is not an uncommon complaint. "We have nothing like this back where I live," she reports, "Banana Moon is a real find. I will certainly be back for more bathing suits next year."

The shop also features a complete inventory of the exclusive, but moderately priced

## Archbishop Desmond Tutu wins £1.1m Templeton Prize



**LONDON (AFP) -** Anti-apartheid icon Desmond Tutu, the former archbishop of Cape Town, was on Thursday awarded the \$1.7-million Templeton Prize for his lifelong work to promote "love and forgiveness". The 81-year-old Nobel peace laureate, who rose to fame in the 1980s as a vocal opponent of South Africa's white-minority apartheid regime, will be presented with the award at a ceremony in London on May 21. The Templeton Prize, one of the world's largest annual awards, is given each year to a living person who has made "an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension". Last year's winner was the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, who gave the money to charity. Tutu thanked "all the wonderful people who accepted me as their leader at home" for the prize, which is administered by the US-based Templeton Foundation. "When you are in a crowd and you stand out from the crowd it's usually because you are being carried on the shoulders of others," he said. The Templeton Foundation hailed Tutu's "deep faith and commitment to prayer and worship".

## Pulitzer-winning US film critic Ebert dies at 70



**LOS ANGELES (AFP) -** Film legend Martin Scorsese and President Barack Obama led tributes to US movie critic Roger Ebert, the first cinema pundit to win a Pulitzer Prize who died Thursday from cancer aged 70.

Scorsese, who has been working on a film about the reviewer famed for his trademark thumbs up and thumbs down accolades, called Ebert's death "an incalculable loss for movie culture and for film criticism."

Fellow Chicago native

Obama also hailed Ebert, who wrote reviews for the Chicago Sun-Times for over four decades and hosted a hugely popular long-running TV show.

"For a generation of Americans -- and especially Chicagoans -- Roger was the movies. When he didn't like a film, he was honest; when he did, he was effusive -- capturing the unique power of the movies to take us somewhere magical."

Ebert -- who just two days ago announced in a blog post that he was taking a break from his main job -- succumbed to cancer after a long battle, said his newspaper, announcing the critic's death in Chicago.

He "promoted excellence in film while deflating the awful, the derivative, or the merely mediocre with an observant eye, a sharp wit and a depth of knowledge that delighted his millions of readers and viewers," it said.

The print, television and online critic, whose "two thumbs up" accolade was a stamp of excellence coveted

by filmmakers, started working for the Chicago Sun-Times in 1967.

He won a Pulitzer in 1975 for distinguished criticism, the first and one of only three such honorees, and hosted long-running movie review television shows, with a thumbs up or thumbs down as the main logo.

Ebert -- who had been in ill-health for a decade and battled thyroid and salivary gland cancers -- also embraced the Internet age, sharing his output online through blogs, Twitter and other social media.

Ebert noted how a "painful fracture" had recently been revealed to be a cancer. "It is being treated with radiation, which has made it impossible for me to attend as many movies as I used to," he said.

Addressing his readers for a last time, he recalled how he became the Chicago Sun-Times' film critic almost 46 years ago to the day, on April 3, 1967.

"Some of you have read my reviews and columns and even written to me since that time... However you came to know me, I'm glad you did and thank you for being the best readers any film critic could ask for."



# O Condominiums

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Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck,

concierge services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

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## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



**Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica**

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

### The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



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The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from**

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from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!





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## Sport

### Football: Gignac guides Marseille past goal-shy Bordeaux

PARIS (AFP) - Marseille provisionally pulled to within four points of Ligue 1 pacesetters Paris Saint-Germain on Friday after a gritty 1-0 victory over Bordeaux at Stade Velodrome.

Andre-Pierre Gignac netted a decisive goal for the second successive match as he struck four minutes before half-time to take his tally for the campaign to 11 and extend Marseille's unbeaten run to five outings.

Defeat for Bordeaux left Francis Gillot's men languishing a disappointing ninth, while leaders PSG can restore their seven-point advantage when they travel to Rennes today.

Asked whether he thought his side could reel in PSG, Baup replied: "The evening we drew 0-0 at home to Ajaccio, you were asking me if we could stay in the top three."

Former England and Marseille winger Chris Waddle turned back the clock as he kicked off his former club's match, but there was no space in the hosts' starting line-up for Joey Barton.

The on-loan midfielder was only named among the substitutes a day after learning he would be summoned to French football's ethics committee for disparaging remarks about PSG defender Thiago Silva, while Mathieu Valbuena was sidelined by a groin injury.

With neither side renowned for being prolific in front of goal -- Bordeaux's total of 29 goals scored only surpassing that of strugglers Reims and Nancy and Marseille (35) the lowest scoring team outside of Bordeaux in the top half of the table -- it was of little surprise that chances were at a premium throughout the evening.

Andre Ayew drew a good low save from Cedric Carrasso inside the opening 20 minutes before Gignac blazed two speculative efforts over the crossbar.

The burly Marseille forward did eventually find his range though on 41 minutes as he galloped down the right after being released by Benoit Cheyrou and took advantage of a slip by defender Ludovic Sane before coolly slotting beyond Carrasso.

Bordeaux failed to register a shot on target until the 70th minute when Nicolas Maurice-Belay stung the palms of Mandanda with Mali striker Cheick Diabate steering a difficult header wide from the rebound.

But the visitors best chance fell to Henri Saivet moments later as the substitute rose unmarked to meet a Ludovic Obraniak corner only to head the ball onto the roof of the net as Bordeaux failed to find the target for the fifth time in eight matches.

### Rutgers athletic director resigns over coach abuse scandal



-- Rutgers Athletic Director Tim Perneti resigned Friday, and the university's governing board gave its full support to President Robert Barchi in the wake of Wednesday's firing of basketball coach Mike Rice for abusive treatment of players.

Perneti's resignation followed the resignations of an assistant basketball coach and interim general counsel John Wolf, who had been involved in advising Perneti when the videos of Rice's behavior surfaced last fall.

Questions remain about the specific reasons a group of university officials and outside consultants did not fire Rice in the fall, but already lessons are emerging that university officials around the country should take to heart, various sports and higher-education sources say.

Perneti said in his resignation statement, "I always tried my best to do what is right." Well, if that's the case then one of two things should have happened. Upon learning of that consensus from legal and HR, the athletic director could have resigned, in order to protect his integrity. If he was truly appalled by the evidence presented to him, how could he bear to be associated with such conduct by a coach and a slap-on-the-wrist punishment which ran contrary to his "first instincts"?

### Tennis: Djokovic gives Serbia 1-0 Davis Cup lead over USA



BOISE (AFP) - World No. 1 Novak Djokovic beat big-serving John Isner in straight sets to give Serbia a 1-0 lead over the United States in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final on Friday.

Djokovic defeated Isner 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 7-5, recovering from an early break in the opening set and taking control from there.

Djokovic saved the only break point he faced in the third set, and gained the break he needed in the 11th game to

give himself a chance to serve out the match on the indoor court at Boise's Taco Bell Arena.

He finished off the two-hour encounter with a love game.

American Sam Querrey was trying to get the hosts back on terms when he took on Viktor Troicki in the second singles match in the best-of-five tie.

The winner will take on the victor of the quarter-final tie between Canada and Italy in Vancouver.

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## Racing: Another Aintree horse fatality ahead of National

LONDON (AFP) - The run-up to Saturday's Grand National was overshadowed on Friday after the death of a horse following a fall on the Aintree course, the second such case in successive days, British media reported.

Animal rights campaigners slammed Grand National organisers after Battlefront became the 23rd horse to die on the Liverpool course since 2000.

Little Josh became the second horse to die at this year's meeting at the renowned venue after the 11-year-old, ridden by

Sam Twiston-Davies and trained by his father Nigel, fell during the Topham Chase, held on the recently redesigned Grand National course.

Little Josh suffered a fractured shoulder and had to be put down by veterinary surgeons.

Aintree has altered the Grand National fences, making them of a more flexible plastic rather than wood, as part of a bid to focus on horse welfare at the meeting.

Last year's race was marred by the death of two horses, according to Pete and Synchronised.

There were also two fatalities in the 2011 race - Orna's and Dooney's Gate.

Battlefront was pulled up by jockey Katie Walsh during the fourth race on the course on Thursday.

It came after Walsh defended the sport earlier this week, saying in a magazine interview that the horses were treated better than "many children".

The BBC quoted Professor Chris Proudman, veterinary advisor to Aintree, as saying: "We are sad to confirm that it has been necessary to humanely put down Little Josh on welfare grounds, as a result of his fall at the 15th fence in the John Smith's Topham Chase."

He added the injury was not treatable.

John Baker, Aintree and North West Regional Director for Jockey Club Racecourses, expressed his regret but added: "We have made significant improvements in safety at the course, but we also recognise that jump racing carries risk you can never completely remove from the sport."

## Yankees lose Nunez to bruised bicep and game to Tigers



**DETROIT** - Nunez who is already replacing Yankee captain Derek Jeter, who isn't expected back until around the first on May, hit the dirt after getting hit by a Doug Fister fastball. Nunez was on the ground in what appeared to be tremendous pain for several minutes before being helped off the field. Jayson Nix replaced him. Ivan Nova (0-1) allowed five hits and four runs in 4.2 innings, striking out five and walking two. Nova is 2-6 with a 7.10 ERA in 12 starts since the All-Star break last season. Tigers won 8 - 3 to Yankees. It's another blow for the Yankees, who started the season with Jeter, Mark Teixeira, Alex Rodriguez and Curtis Granderson on the disabled list. **UPDATE:** X-rays were negative and the initial diagnosis is a bruised right bicep.

## Spain freezes properties of late Atletico Madrid boss

MADRID (AFP) - A Spanish judge has frozen more than 100 properties left by the late Atletico Madrid boss Jesus Gil y Gil to his children so as to ensure the repayment of millions that went missing when he was mayor of Marbella, a city hall spokesman said.

As heirs of the former football boss and Marbella mayor, who died in 2004, the four children were ordered by a court in 2011 to compensate the city for illicit transfers of public money by their father between 1994 and 1999.

Diario Sur paper, which had access to a court ruling dated February 15, said the measure concerned 118 properties belonging to companies of the four children of Gil, including buildings in Marbella and Madrid and two farms of 300 and 600 hectares.

The asset freeze was aimed at ensuring the children complied with a sentence obliging the former mayor's heirs to return 66 million euros (\$86 million) to Marbella city hall, plus interest estimated at more than 40 million euros, it said.

Outspoken, friendly, and with a fat gold chain around his neck, Gil was one of the most controversial and high profile figures of Spain in the 1990s.

Gil was president of Atletico Madrid from 1987 to 2003 and he ran Marbella, a southern Spanish Mediterranean resort renowned for corruption scandals, from 1991 to 2002.

Gil was imprisoned three times: firstly in 1969 for the collapse of a building he put up in which more than 50 people were killed; secondly in 1999 for siphoning 450 million pesetas (2.7 million euros) from Marbella to Atletico Madrid; and thirdly in 2002 during hearings into a Marbella city hall embezzlement scandal.

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## MLB Standings

### American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	02	01	.667	--
BALTIMORE	02	01	.667	--
TORONTO	01	02	.333	1.0
TAMPA	01	02	.333	1.0
YANKEES	01	03	.250	1.5

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CLEVELAND	02	01	.667	--
MINNESOTA	02	01	.667	--
CHICAGO	02	02	.667	--
DETROIT	02	02	.500	0.5
KANSAS	01	02	.333	1.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	02	01	.667	--
SEATTLE	02	02	.500	0.5
OAKLAND	02	02	.500	0.5
LA ANGELES	01	02	.333	1.0
HOUSTON	01	02	.333	1.0

### National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
WASHINGTON	03	--	1.00	--
ATLANTA	02	01	.667	1.0
NY METS	02	01	.667	1.0
PHILADELPHIA	01	02	.333	2.0
MIAMI	--	03	.000	3.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CINCINNATI	02	01	.667	--
CHICAGO	02	01	.667	--
ST. LOUIS	01	02	.333	1.0
PITTSBURG	01	02	.333	1.0
MILWAUKEE	01	02	.333	1.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
COLORADOLA	02	01	.667	--
SAN FRANCISCO	02	01	.667	--
ARIZONA	02	01	.667	--
SAN DIEGO	01	02	.333	1.0
DODGERS	01	02	.333	1.0

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## NBA: Thunder beat Spurs in duel of West's top teams



Nando de Colo #25 of the San Antonio Spurs shoots a layup

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - Russell Westbrook scored a game-high 27 points Thursday to lead Oklahoma City to a 100-88 NBA victory over San Antonio in a duel between the top teams in the Western Conference.

Westbrook also grabbed seven rebounds and handed out seven assists for the Thunder, who whittled the Spurs' lead in the race for the best record in the West to one-half game.

Kevin Durant added 25 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Thunder, while veteran Derek Fisher drained five three-pointers in contributing 17 points off the bench.

Oklahoma City have now

won two straight games and five of their last six.

Tim Duncan and Kawhi Leonard both notched double-doubles for the Spurs, but San Antonio have lost three of their last four games.

Both Duncan and Leonard scored 24 points, Duncan adding 11 rebounds and Leonard pulling down 14.

The Spurs were again without injured Manu Ginobili, who is battling a hamstring problem.

Guard Tony Parker, who missed Wednesday's 98-84 Spurs win over Orlando, returned but scored just two points, connecting on just one of six shots from the floor.



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots

## NBA: Nuggets' Gallinari has torn knee ligament

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Denver forward Danilo Gallinari has a torn knee ligament and will require surgery.

Gallinari was hurt in the second quarter of Denver's 95-94 NBA victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday.

His knee buckled as he drove to the basket and he fell to the court in pain before hopping to the sideline to be helped off the court by teammates.

Gallinari is the second-leading scorer for Denver

with 16.2 points per game. He also has averages of 5.2 rebounds and 2.5 assists in 70 contests this season.

But the loss of Gallinari will be a big blow to playoff-bound Denver's post-season hopes.

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